

In the Claims:

A complete listing of the claims is set forth below.

Claims 1-12 cancelled.

13. (Currently amended) A network address register for use in a telephone switching network to route messages, comprising:

a database comprising subscriber-specific data and network item addresses;

and

a network address register that receives from a first network item a network message, determines a network item address for the network message as a function of the subscriber-specific data in the message using the database, and transmits the network message to a network address of a second network item, wherein the network address register transmits the network address of the second network item to the first network item and establishes a traffic channel with the second network item, wherein the first network item comprises a mobile services switching center, the second network item comprises a voice mail service center, and the subscriber-specific data comprises an mobile station ISDN number, wherein the traffic channel comprises a voice channel to a voice mailbox, and wherein the network address register receives the mobile station ISDN number from the voice mail service center and determines a network address of the second network item home location register as a function of the mobile station ISDN number, wherein the second network item comprises a home location register.

14. (Previously presented) The network address register of claim 13, wherein the network address register is capable of being used in a Global System for Mobile Communications network.

15. (Previously presented) The network address register of claim 14, wherein the subscriber-specific data further comprises one or more elements selected from the group

consisting of: international mobile subscriber identity, and international mobile equipment identity.

16. (Currently amended) The network address register of claim 14, wherein the second network item further comprises one or more elements selected from the group consisting of: ~~home location register~~, an authentication center, equipment identity register, and service control point.

17. (Previously presented) The network address register of claims 14, wherein the network address register returns routing information to a network item that sent the network message.

18. (Previously presented) The network address register of claim 14, wherein the database comprises an association between the subscriber-specific data and network item addresses such that the network item addresses are independent of block numbering ranges.

19. (Previously presented) The network address register of claim 18, wherein the association between the subscriber-specific data and network item addresses is configurable.

20. (Currently amended) A method of routing messages in a Global System for Mobile Communications switching network, comprising:

receiving a network message having subscriber-specific data at a network address register from a first network item;

determining at the network address register a network address of a second network item as a function of the subscriber-specific data, wherein the second network item replies directly to the first network item; and

transmitting the network message to the network address of a second network item, and further comprising:

transmitting the network address of the second network item to the first network item;

establishing a traffic channel with the second network item, wherein the first network item comprises a mobile services switching center, the second network item comprises a

voice mail service center, and the subscriber-specific data comprises an mobile station ISDN number, wherein the traffic channel comprises a voice channel to a voice mailbox;

transmitting the mobile station ISDN number from the voice mail service center to the network address register; and

determining in the network address register a network address of the second network item ~~home location register~~ as a function of the mobile station ISDN number, wherein the second network item comprises a home location register.

21. Cancelled.

22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the first network item comprises a mobile services switching center, ~~the second network item comprises a home location register~~, and the subscriber-specific data comprises an international mobile subscriber identity.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the subscriber-specific data further comprises a mobile station ISDN number.

24-27 Cancelled.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising:
transmitting an international mobile equipment identity of a portable radio device from the mobile services switching center to the network address register; and
determining in the network address register the address of the service control point as a function of the international mobile equipment identity.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, further comprising:
receiving an international mobile subscriber identity from the mobile services switching center at the network address register;
determining in the network address register the address of the authentication center as a function of the international mobile subscriber identity; and

providing authentication of the international mobile subscriber identity to the mobile services switching center.